

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 12 PRESS ROUNDUP

PLEASE PASS TO AMB PAUL C. WARNKE

1. WALTER PINCUS IN JULY 12 WASHINGTON POST QUOTED
ADMINISTRATION SOURCES AS SAYING PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE
INITIAL DECISION TO RECOMMEND PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS,
FUNDS FOR WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN FISCAL 1978 PUBLIC WORKS
MONEY BILL BEFORE SENATE. PINCUS SAID PRESIDENT INFORMED
SENATOR JOHN STENNIS, CHAIRMAN OF SENATE ARMED SERVICES COM-
MITTEE AND FLOOR MANAGER OF BILL, OF HIS DECISION YESTERDAY.
PINCUS SAID CARTER'S DECISION IS EXPECTED "TO DEFLATE ANY
HOPE THAT OPPONENTS OF NEUTRON WEAPONS HAD OF DELETING PRO-
DUCTION MONEY FROM BILL." THESE SOURCES, ACCORDING TO
PINCUS, SAID CARTER RESERVED RIGHT TO CHANGE HIS MIND ON
WEAPONS AFTER COMPREHENSIVE INTER-AGENCY STUDY IS COMPLETED
IN MID-AUGUST. PINCUS QUOTED ONE SOURCE AS SAYING "BUT
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NOTHING IS EXPECTED TO CAUSE THAT TO HAPPEN."BILL BEFORE
SENATE CONTAINS IN ERDA PORTION FUNDS TO BEGIN PRODUCING
NEUTRON VERSIONS OF EIGHT-INCH ARTILLERY PROJECTILE AND
LANCE MISSILE WARHEAD. IT ALSO HAS RESEARCH FUNDS FOR
NEUTRON 155-MM SHELL. HOUSE APPROVED NEUTRON WEAPON PRO-
DUCTION MONEY WITHOUT DEBATE, BUT DELETED RESEARCH FUNDS FOR
NEUTRON 155-MM SHELL. PINCUS SAID KEY PENTAGON OFFICIAL
STATED YESTERDAY THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON HOW MANY
NEUTRON WEAPONS EVENTUALLY WOULD BE PURCHASED. OFFICIAL
MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD PRESS

FOR PRODUCTION OF EIGHT-INCH AND 155-MM SHELLS. PINCUS,

CITING TESTIMONY GIVEN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
LAST MARCH, SAID THERE ARE SOME 450 EIGHT-INCH TUBES IN

EUROPE AND 2,196 155'S. BOTH U.S. AND ITS ALLIES HAVE
THESE WEAPONS, PINCUS SAID. PINCUS SAID DEBATE IN SENATE,
EXPECTED TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY, MAY FOCUS LESS ON NEUTRON
WARHEADS THEMSELVES AND MORE ON AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD GIVE
CONGRESS VETO OVER CARTER'S DECISION; TO GO AHEAD WITH
NEUTRON WEAPONS. HE SAID PENTAGON HAS PUT OUT CHART SHOW-
ING THAT PROPOSED RADIATION KILL RADIUS OF NEUTRON SHELL
WOULD BE ABOUT 200 TO 300 YARDS. DEFENSE OFFICIALS, HE
NOTED, SAID YESTERDAY THAT NEUTRON WEAPONS, WHETHER LANCE
WARHEADS OR ARTILLERY SHELLS, WOULD NOT BE FIRED ALONE, BUT
AS PART OF PACKAGE OF PERHAPS 30 TO 50 NUCLEAR SHELLS AND
WARHEADS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING SOME NOT OF ENHANCED RADIATION
VARIETY.

2. NEW YORK TIMES, POINTING OUT NATO IS "NOW IN WORST
POSSIBLE POSITION WITH RESPECT TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS," SAID ADMINISTRATION SHOULD PROCEED WITH PLANNED
DEPLOYMENT OF NEUTRON WARHEADS. NEWSPAPER SAID "BECAUSE
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NEUTRON WARHEADS ARE LESS FRIGHTFUL IN THEIR EFFECTS THEY
MIGHT INDEED BE MORE EASILY USED, WITH RISK OF FURTHER
ESCALATION. BUT THEY WOULD ALSO MAKE MORE CREDIBLE NATO'S
THREAT TO USE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND IN SO DOING
MAKE LESS LIKELY NEED EVER TO USE THEM. YET NEUTRON WEAPON
IS ONLY SHORT-TERM SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF IMBALANCE OF
FORCES IN EUROPE. LONG-TERM SOLUTION, AND GREATER SAFETY,
LIES IN REVIVING NEARLY MORIBUND EAST-WEST TALKS ON MBFR
AND NEGOTIATING TROOP LEVELS THAT ARE LOW ENOUGH, WITH
SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK THAT ARE SOUND ENOUGH,
TO DO AWAY WITH NEED FOR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AL-
TOGETHER."

3. TIMES PUBLISHED OP-ED PAGE ARTICLES ON NEUTRON WEAPONS
BY FORMER CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR HERBERT SCOVILLE JR., AND
EDWARD TELLER. SCOVILLE, IN OPPOSING NEUTRON WEAPONS, SAID
"RUSSIANS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN LOW-YIELD BATTLE-
FIELD NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THEIR DOCTRINE HAS CALLED FOR
MASSIVE RESPONSES IN EVENT THAT WE INITIATE USE OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AT ANY LEVEL. THEREFORE OUR ATTEMPTS TO SAVE
EUROPEAN CITIES BY RELYING ON LOW-YIELD NEUTRON BOMBS IS
MOST UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED.... NEUTRON BOMB SHOULD BE PUT
BACK ON SHELF AND WE SHOULD INSTEAD CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOP-
ING WAYS OF DETERRING AGGRESSION BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS."
DR. TELLER SAID "PROPER PLAN TO USE NEUTRON BOMB COULD MAKE
SURE THAT SUCH ESCALATION AS WELL AS WAR ITSELF, BECOMES
LESS LIKELY. I PROPOSE THAT WE ANNOUNCE POLICY ACCORDING

TO WHICH WE SHALL RIGOROUSLY REFRAIN FROM FIRST-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING NEUTRON BOMB, EXCEPT WITHIN TERRITORY INVADED BY ENEMY FORCES. ON OTHER HAND, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR IMMEDIATE USE OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REPEL MASSIVE ENEMY FORCES FROM INVADED TERRITORY BY USE OF SUCH MILITARY MEANS WHICH CAUSE LEAST SUFFERING AND DAMAGE TO PEOPLE OF INVADED TERRITORY. OPTIMAL WEAPON TO IMPLEMENT THIS PURPOSE MAY WELL BE ADVANCED VERSION OF NEUTRON BOMB."

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4. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST, QUOTING FROM ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENTS RELEASED YESTERDAY, SAID "PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF REDUCING U.S. ARMS SALES OVERSEAS IS NOT LIKELY TO BRING DOWN WORLDWIDE TRAFFIC IN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -- AND MAY NOT BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE AT HOME -- UNLESS OTHER NATIONS CAN BE PERSUADED TO ADOPT SIMILAR RESTRAINTS." POST CORRESPONDENT SAID DECLASSIFIED FORM OF NSC STUDY WAS TRANSMITTED TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH MADE IT PUBLIC YESTERDAY. NSC STUDY FORMED PART OF BASIS FOR PRESIDENT'S MAY 19 ANNOUNCEMENT OF MORE RESTRICTIVE U.S. POLICY ON SALE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS ABROAD. NSC STUDY NAMED FRANCE, BRITAIN, ISRAEL, GERMANY, ITALY, BELGIUM, SWEDEN AND SOVIET UNION AS COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT SELL WEAPONS TO "DETERMINED PURCHASERS" WHOSE ARMS REQUESTS ARE TURNED DOWN BY U.S. IF THESE COUNTRIES RUSH TO FILL VACUUM CAUSED BY U.S. CUTBACKS, "PRESSURES IN THIS COUNTRY TO LOOSEN BONDS OF RESTRAINT COULD BECOME SUBSTANTIAL," NSC REPORT SAID. WHILE U.S. IS LARGEST ARMS SUPPLIER IN OVER-ALL DOLLAR TERMS, NSC REPORT SAID SOVIET UNION IS LEADING WORLDWIDE SUPPLIER OF SUPERSONIC COMBAT AIRCRAFT, SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, SELF-PROPELLED GUNS, ARTILLERY AND GUIDED MISSILE PATROL BOATS. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, OBERDORFER SAID, REPORTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAS SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC CAPABILITY TO INCREASE ITS PRODUCTION AND SALES OF MILITARY ITEMS.

5. DREW MIDDLETON, WRITING IN JULY 12 NEW YORK TIMES, SAID "ADMINISTRATION'S ACCEPTANCE OF CRUISE MISSILE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED MANNER BOMBER HAS ACCELERATED AIR FORCE AND NAVY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BUT FAILED TO STILL DOUBTS WITHIN DEFENSE COMMUNITY OVER WEAPON'S EFFECTIVENESS."

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NESS." HE SAID DOUBTS FOCUS ON MAXIMUM RANGE OF CRUISE MISSILE, ITS SPEED, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION SCHEDULE AND WEAPON'S VULNERABILITY TO DETECTION AND INTERCEPTION. "ADMINISTRATION DEFENSE EXPERTS CONCEDE CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES IN CRUISE MISSILE, BUT THEY SAY THAT THEY ARE CON-

VINCE THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS WILL RESOLVE THESE DIFFICULTIES," MIDDLETON SAID. OFFICIALS IN AIR FORCE AND NAVY, MIDDLETON REPORTED, "SAY THAT THEIR PRIMARY PROBLEM IS TO SPEED DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION AND INSURE THAT CRUISE MISSILE HAS OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY BY 1979 RATHER THAN IN NEXT DECADE."

6. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT THAT PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO BUILD URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT AT PORTSMOUTH, OHIO, USING NEW TECHNIQUE CALLED GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS. OFFICIALS SAID PLANT, WHICH WILL COST ESTIMATED 4.2 BILLION TO 4.5 BILLION DOLLARS, WILL INCREASE U.S. CAPACITY TO PROCESS NUCLEAR FUEL BY ALMOST ONE-THIRD. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLANT IS EXPECTED TO START NEAR END OF 1978, WITH PRODUCTION TO BEGIN IN 1986 AND FULL PRODUCTION REACHED IN 1988. ERDA SAID EXPANSION OF FACILITIES WILL "REESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY FOR U.S. AS SUPPLIER OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES, THEREBY ASSISTING COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES." U.S. HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FILL NEW ORDERS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM, PROMPTING FOREIGN NATIONS SEEKING NUCLEAR POWER TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN FUEL PROCESSING PLANTS AND BREEDER REACTORS.

7. SPENCER RICH OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT "IN MAJOR DEFEAT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, SENATE REFUSED LAST NIGHT, 49 TO 38, TO KILL NUCLEAR FAST BREEDER REACTOR AT CLINCH RIVER, TENNESSEE." SENATE BY VOICE VOTE APPROVED COMPROMISE BY FRANK CHURCH AND HENRY JACKSON DELAYING CONSTRUCTION FOR YEAR BUT PROVIDING 75 MILLION DOLLARS IN NEW AUTHORIZATIONS TO CONTINUE RESEARCH AND TO PRESERVE "BASE OF PROFESSIONALS" WHO WILL BE NEEDED IF CONGRESS VOTES "GO" NEXT UNCLASSIFIED

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YEAR FOR NUCLEAR POWERED ELECTRICITY GENERATOR. SENATOR DALE BUMPERS SAID PLUTONIUM-PRODUCING BREEDER WOULD UNDERMINE CARTER'S CREDIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO PERSUADE OTHER NATIONS FROM BUILDING SIMILAR PLANTS. RICH SAID CHURCH; AND JACKSON SAID THEIR AMENDMENT, KEEPING PROJECT ALIVE FOR YEAR WITHOUT ACTUALLY STARTING CONSTRUCTION, WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR REEVALUATION OF WHAT MIGHT BE BADLY NEEDED NEW ELECTRIC POWER FACILITY WITHOUT THROWING IT AWAY -- AT TIME WHEN FRANCE, ENGLAND, GERMANY AND SEVERAL OTHERS ARE ALREADY GOING AHEAD WITH SIMILAR PROJECTS.

8. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID DECISION BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO SELL SEVEN HIGHLY COMPLEX AIRBORNE RADAR SYSTEMS (AWACS) TO IRAN IS UNDER CONGRESSIONAL ATTACK AMID ALLEGATIONS THAT PENTAGON BLOCKED ALL COMPETITION AND FAILED TO OFFER SHAH LESS EXPENSIVE OPTION.

9. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, IN JULY 18 ISSUE, PUBLISHED

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON PRESENT DANGER WHICH SAID THERE IS
"LINGERING SENSE OF UNEASE ABOUT PRUDENCE OF U.S. POSTURE"
IN PROTRACTED SALT NEGOTIATIONS. REPORT SAID "U.S. HOPED
TO SLOW DOWN BRUTAL MOMENTUM OF MASSIVE SOVIET STRATEGIC
ARMS BUILD-UP -- BUILD-UP WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN HISTORY. TO
DEMONSTRATE ITS OWN SINCERITY OF PURPOSE, U.S. HAS RE-
STRAINED ITS RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND WEAPONS-DEPLOYMENT
PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. U.S. HAD HOPED
TO ENCOURAGE MATCHING SOVIET RESPONSE. YET 'PARALLELISM'
ASSUMED IN THIS APPROACH HAS NOT BEEN EVIDENT IN SOVIET
UNION'S BARGAINING STANCE AND TACTICS. FROM BEGINNING OF
SALT AT HELSINKI IN 1969, SOVIET OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO
PRESERVE USSR'S GAINS AND MOMENTUM WHILE ENCOURAGING
MAXIMUM RESTRAINT UPON U.S. PROGRAMS." COMMITTEE ON PRESENT
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DANGER SAID "IN SHORT RUN, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT COMPREHEN-
SIVE AND SAFE SALT AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED. IN LONGER
RUN, OUR MARCH PROPOSAL, ADJUSTED TO REMOVE ITS MORE
OBVIOUS INEQUITIES TO U.S., MIGHT CONSTITUTE FRAMEWORK FOR
MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS -- PROVIDED THAT WE
MEANWHILE DEMONSTRATE IN ACTION, AGREEMENT OR NO AGREEMENT,
OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN FORCES FULLY ADEQUATE TO
DETER ATTACK AGAINST U.S. AND OUR ALLIES. THIS COURSE
WOULD REQUIRE US TO MOVE FORWARD PROMPTLY ON SEVERAL PEND-
ING AND PROJECTED STRATEGIC SYSTEMS TO RESTORE CREDIBILITY
OF OUR SECOND-STRIKE DETERRENT." VANCE

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